

ON A NEW GENUS OF CULICINAE FROM THE AMAZON REGION

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Thomasina, nov. gen. (Newstead and Carter)

Palpi of the male (fig. 1) much shorter than the proboscis; they are also rather slender and composed of four segments, of



FIG. 1. Head of ♂ *Thomasina longipalpis*. (Newstead and Thomas.)

which the terminal one is very short and narrower than the preceding one. *Antennae* (fig. 1) rather sparsely clothed with

hairs. *Legs* with long and somewhat outstanding scales at the apex of the femora; the fourth and fifth segments of the front and middle tarsi very short and broad, being compressed laterally.

Scale structure of both sexes. Those of the head and thorax as in *Mansonia*, with the exception of a few broad curved ones just in front of the scutellum and at the base of the wings; pleurae densely clothed with large, broad, spindle-shaped scales; prothoracic lobes distally clothed with spindle-shaped ones; scutellum with long falciform scales. *Wings* with *Mansonia*-like scales, the outstanding ones being, however, much longer.

Type, *Thomasina longipalpis* (Newstead and Thomas).



FIG. 2. Palpus of ♀ *Thomasina longipalpis*. (Newstead and Thomas,

In describing the female of this species, Newstead and Thomas* referred it to the genus *Mansonia* owing to a general resemblance which the scale structure bears to this genus; and, although these authors had noted the peculiar character of the palpi, they did not think this was of sufficient importance to warrant the erection of a new genus for the reception of this insect.

* Ann. of Trop. Med. and Parasit., Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 145.

Having recently received several examples of both sexes, it was at once seen that the morphological characters of the palpi and tarsi were so markedly different from those of *Mansonia* that the species could no longer remain in that genus.

The marked characteristics of *Thomasina* are that the *palpi of the male are short, while those of the female are relatively long* (figs. 1 and 2), the latter almost one-third the length of the proboscis; and that *the fourth tarsal segment of the fore and mid-legs, in both sexes, is very small and flattened* (fig. 3, a, b).

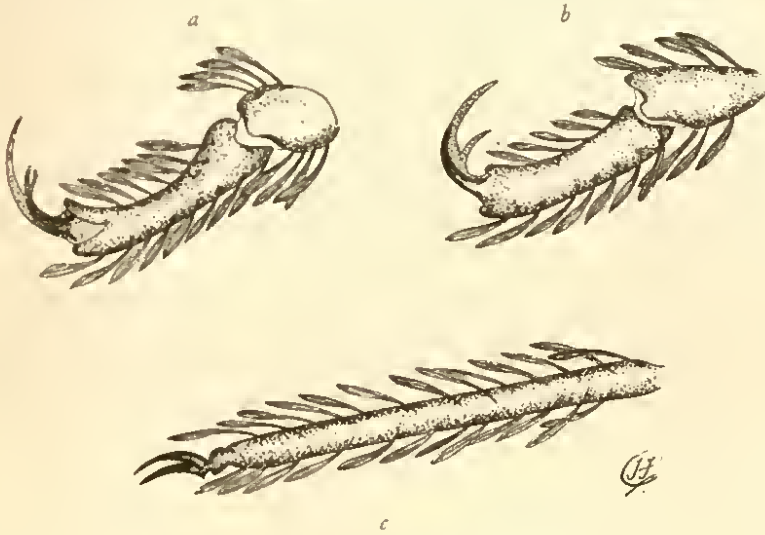


FIG. 3. a and b. Fourth and fifth tarsal segments and unguis of the fore and mid legs of ♂ *Thomasina longipalpis*. (Newstead and Thomas.)
c. Fifth segment and unguis of the same.

We have much pleasure in dedicating this insect to our colleague, Dr. H. Wolferstan Thomas, who has contributed so much towards our knowledge of the mosquitos of the Amazon region at Manaos and elsewhere.

Thomasina longipalpis (Newstead and Thomas) (1910).

Mansonia longipalpis (♀ only) (Newstead and Thomas) (1910)*.

MALE.—Colour and general characteristics as in the female. *Palpi* clothed with black, white, and ochreous-yellow scales, the

* Ann. of Trop. Med. and Parasit., Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 145.

latter predominating; the articulations, the apical segment, and base of the first segment, white scaled. *Proboscis* very thick, slightly stouter than that of the female, but as far as can be seen, with the same distribution of scales. *Legs* (fig. 3), fourth tarsal segments of the first pair of legs slightly broader than long, in the ♀ larger and considerably longer than broad; ungues unequal, the larger with a distinct sub-median tooth, the smaller simple. Fourth segments of the second pair of legs longer and narrower than in the first pair, in the ♀ shorter and slightly broader and about the same size as the corresponding ones of the ♂; ungues as in the fore legs. Tarsi of the hind legs normal in both sexes, the ungues equal and simple. *Genitalia*:—Basal segment stout, gradually tapering to a rounded apex; superior clasper slender, about half the length of the basal lobe, with a long terminal spine; inferior clasper forming a fairly distinct lobe bearing a pair of thick spines. Harpes and harpagones stout, the former terminating in three distinct teeth, the latter in a single large one.

In addition to the female characters given by Newstead and Thomas, and besides those mentioned above, there are two others of some importance, viz., the ungues are all equal and simple, and in several specimens the ventral surface of the last tarsal segment of the hind legs is black scaled.